

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

What is claimed is:

1. (currently amended) In a video decoder, a method for acquiring a program conveyed on more than one broadcast channel, comprising the steps of:

generating a program guide display listing programs being broadcast on a plurality of broadcast channels during specified broadcast time segments, wherein said program guide display lists a particular program on both a first and a second broadcast channel; and

acquiring said particular program from said first broadcast channel in response to user selection of either of said first and second broadcast channels, wherein

(i) said broadcast channels are transmitted using the same transmission modality, wherein the same transmission modality is selected from the group of: an Internet broadcast, a terrestrial broadcast, a satellite broadcast, and a cable broadcast; and

(ii) said first broadcast channel is selected as the source for said particular program in view of geographical information.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said particular program is acquired using packet identification and channel tuning information conveyed in one of a plurality of channel maps associating a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting said particular program.

3. (original) A method according to claim 2, wherein

said plurality of channel maps are allocated a predetermined priority.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein

said user selection of either of said first and second broadcast channels is performed via selection of a displayed item in said program guide display.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, including the step of ~~criteria comprising at least one of, (a) channel map priority, and (b) a User program preference profile, (c) wherein said geographic information is a substitution profile downloaded from a remote head-end and (d) geographic region preference information.~~

6. (original) A method according to claim 1, including the step of acquiring said particular program from said first broadcast channel using a channel map selected in accordance with a predetermined priority.

7. (original) A method according to claim 6, wherein said channel map associates a transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting said particular program conveyed on said first broadcast channel.

8. (currently amended) A method for substituting a program conveyed on a first broadcast channel for a program conveyed on a second broadcast channel, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a first channel map associating a first transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting a first program conveyed on a first broadcast channel;

acquiring a second channel map associating a second transmission channel carrier frequency with data identifiers used to capture datastreams constituting an alternative program conveyed on a second broadcast channel; and

substituting said alternative program for said first program in response to predetermined criteria by using said second channel map information to initiate acquisition of said second broadcast channel and said alternative program, wherein

(i) said first and second transmission channel carrier frequency use the same broadcast modality selected from a satellite broadcast, a terrestrial broadcast, and a cable broadcast, and

(ii) geographical criteria are used for said substitution step.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said first channel map contains information for use in acquiring programs conveyed on a first set of broadcast channels, and

said second channel map contains information for use in acquiring an alternative program conveyed on an alternative broadcast channel corresponding to one of said channels in said first set of broadcast channels.

10. (original) A method according to claim 8, including the step of examining said acquired second channel map for alternative program data being conveyed on an alternative broadcast channel in response to a channel change command.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10, including the steps of automatically substituting an alternative program and alternative broadcast channel identified as being available for a User selected channel by said acquired second channel map, and

tuning to receive said alternative program and alternative broadcast channel in response to a channel change command.

12. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined criteria comprises at least one of, (a) channel map priority, and (b) a User program preference profile and (c) a substitution profile downloaded from a remote head-end.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein ~~a locally broadcast alternative program is substituted for a relatively remotely broadcast first program~~ ~~said geographical information is used to receive a local broadcast of said program conveyed on a second broadcast channel over a local broadcast of said program conveyed on a first broadcast channel.~~

15. (original) A method according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined criteria comprises a command derived from a remote head-end.

16. (original) A method according to claim 8, including the step of re-tuning to acquire one of (a) said first program and (b) a second program different to said alternative and said first program following completion of said alternative program.

Claims 17-22 (cancelled)

23. (New) In a video decoder, a method for receiving a program transmitted through a source available through an Internet connection comprising the steps of:

using a program guide to select a program, wherein said program is capable of being received from at least two different sources available through said Internet connection;

selecting a source from said at least two different sources in view of a geographic location of a user, wherein said selection of a source is performed without user intervention;

receiving said selected program from said selected source.

24. (New) In a video decoder, a method for decoding programming received from at least two different sources comprising the steps of:

decoding a program received from a first broadcast source, wherein said first source is selected from at least one of a terrestrial broadcast, a satellite broadcast, and a cable broadcast;

replacing at least one commercial during the decoding of said program with a commercial received from a second source received through an Internet connection; and
decoding said commercial received from said second source.

25. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein geographic information corresponding to a location of a user is used for selecting said commercial received from a second source.

page 4, lines 11-28). When in the proper input mode, Internet data will be streamed over the Internet and decoded by the claimed decoder (see specification, page 7, lines 20-25). The selection of Internet content is described in the specification on page 8, line 36 to page 9, line 6, and in other places). The description of the use of geographic information to a user location is described in the specification on page 1, lines 26-34, page 5, lines 36-41, and in other places.

New Claim 24 is described in accordance with an embodiment of the invention in regards to Fig. 6, where advertisements may be replaced (see specification, page 8, line 36 to page 9, line 4. The Internet aspect of the claim is disclosed on page 4, lines 11-28 of the specification. The operation of the decoder being capable of operating with Internet and other transmission formats (terrestrial, satellite, and cable) is disclosed in the specification on page 6, line 34 to page 7, line 25, Fig .5, and in other places.

New Claim 25 is described in the use of geographic information, as disclosed in the specification on page 1, lines 26-34, page 5, lines 36-41, and in other places.

No new matter was added to the specification, in view of these amendments.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection of Claim 14

The Examiner rejected Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner rejected Claim 14 for using the term "relatively remote broadcast". This term is removed from Claim 14.

The Applicants have added the term "local broadcast" to the claim as to clarify that the programs transmitted over a first and second broadcast represent local broadcasts of a program. This term "local broadcast" is used as to distinguish the invention over the use of a national broadcast. Specifically, local broadcasts, transmitted by respective local affiliates, have programming that changes from local affiliate to affiliate. Typically, commercials vary from local affiliate to affiliate.

Applicants request that the Examiner remove the rejection to the claim.

As amended, the Claim 13 claims that the claimed searching step is performed "as channel guide information is updated by the receipt of new channel guide information